

Message Text

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SUBJ: PRESS REACTION TO SINO-U.S. RELATIONS

1. THE LEFTIST NEW EVENING POST NO. 17 AND HONG KONG COMMERCIAL DAILY NOV. 18 IN COMMENTARIES ON THE KISSINGER COMMUNIQUE BOTH QUOTED USIS RELEASE "MOMENTUM TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS SEEN," (EPF-B, NOV. 15) WHICH WAS DISTRIBUTED IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH NOV. 16. THESPOINT MOST EMPHASIZED BY THE TWO NEWSPAPERS IS THE "NUANCE IN THE CHINESE STATEMENT ABOUT WHAT NORMALIZATION DEPENDS UPON" -- CONFIRMATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF ONE CHINA.

2. NEW EVENING POST REMARKED: "WHERE IS THE 'SUBTLETY'?" U.S. OFFICIALS SAY THIS IS "BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN FOUND MORE PRODUCTIVE IN NEGOTIATING WITH THE CHINESE TO ESTABLISH A PRINCIPLE FIRST AND THEN TO WORK OUT DETAILS." AND THE PRINCIPLE GOVERNING THE NORMALIZATION OF CHINA-U.S. RELATIONS IS CONFIRMATION OF ONE CHINA... IT IS DEFINITE THAT CHINA-U.S. RELATIONS WILL ULTIMATELY BE NORMALIZED;

IT IS MOREOVER DEFINITE THAT NORMALIZATION WILL BE BASED ON THE
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PRINCIPLE OF CONFIRMING ONE CHINA, THIS ONE CHINA BEING THE PEOPLE'S

REPUBLIC OF CHINA. THERE ARE NO 'TWO CHINAS*"... SOME PEOPLE DELIBERATELY CLAIM THAT PEKING HAS SOFTENED ITS STAND ON THIS QUESTION AND IS NOT AS INSISTENT AS BEFORE. THIS IS DISTORTING THE TRUTH* ONLY THE CHIANG KAI-SHEK CLIQUE ON TAIWAN HAS OPENLY PROPOSED A 'TWO CHINAS' FORMULA...."

3. HONG KONG COMMERCIAL DAILY SAID: "OBVIOUSLY, 'THE PRINCIPLE OF ONE CHINA' IS THE 'DECISIVE FACTOR' IN THE NORMALIZATION OF CHINA-U.S. RELATIONS. THE U.S. SIDE HAS COME TO UNDERSTAND THIS 'NUANCE', AND TO RECOGNIZE 'THAT THERE IS BUT ONE CHINA AND THAT TAIWAN IS A PART OF CHINA.' THIS DOES APPEAR TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT; THE ENTIRE WORLD CANNOT BUT CONFIRM 'THE PRINCIPLE OF ONE CHINA*'"

4. FOLLOWING EDITORIAL FROM SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST NOV. 19, TITLED "RE-AFFIRMING THE SINO-U.S. DETENTE":

5. (QUOTE) THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE BY MR. CHOU EN-LAI AND DR. HENRY KISSINGER ON THE LATTER'S LATEST VISIT TO PEKING IN HIS CAPACITY AS U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE APPEARS TO BE LARGELY A REAFFIRMATION OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE IN FEBRUARY LAST YEAR ON PRESIDENT NIXON'S HISTORIC TRIP TO CHINA.

6. THE ONLY SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CHOU-KISSINGER COMMUNIQUE IS ITS REFLECTION OF THE CURRENT STATE OF SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONS. THE RELATIONSHIP HAS NOT BEEN IMPAIRED DESPITE PEKING'S DISAPPROVAL OF WASHINGTON'S - AND MOSCOW'S -ROLE IN IMPOSING A CEASEFIRE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE OCCASIONAL REFERENCES BY CHIN'S PROPAGANDA MACHINE TO "U.S. IMPERIALISM."

7. INDEED, THE RELATIONSHIPS IS TO BE STRENGTHENED BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT TO EXPAND THE FUNCTIONS OF THE CHINESE AND AMERICAN LIAISON OFFICES IN WASHINGTON AND PEKING.

8. FURTHERMORE, THE SCOPE OF EXCHANGES IN THE PROFESSIONAL, SPECIALIST AND CULTURAL FIELDS IS TO BE ENLARGED AND TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IS TO BE IMPROVED.

9. ALTHOUGH NO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN MADE BY PEKING FOR STEPS BY WASHINGTON TO FACILITATE MUTUAL DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION, THE CHINESE SIDE STRESSES IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE
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THAT "NORMAL RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES CAN BE REALISED ONLY ON THE BASIS OF CONFIRMING THE PRINCIPLE OF ONE CHINA."

10. IN EFFECT, THIS IS A RE-ITERATION OF CHINA'S ORIGINAL POSITION WHICH SUGGESTS THAT PEKING WOULD LIKE WASHINGTON TO TAKE MORE CONCRETE STEPS TOWARDS AN OFFICIAL DIVORCE FROM THE CHINESE NATIONALIST REGIME IN TAIWAN.

11. OF COURSE, FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION, IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE PEKING LEADERSHIP TO PUBLICLY REAFFIRM ITS POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF TAIWAN TO DISPEL MISGIVINGS ON THE PART OF SOME COMPATRIOTS WHO DO NOT SEE EYE-TO-EYE WITH THE POLICY OF DETENTE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

12. CHAIRMAN MAO'S EXTRAORDINARY RECEPTION OF DR. KISSINGER APPEARS TO BE RELATED ALSO MORE TO THE DOMESTIC SITUATION THAN ANYTHING ELSE.

13. THE UNUSUAL LENGTH OF HIS TALKS WITH DR. KISSINGER "IN A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE" AMOUNTS TO PUTTING HIS PERSONAL SEAL ON THE POLICY TOWARDS WASHINGTON.

14. APPARENTLY HAVING SENSED THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP'S CONCERN ABOUT THE CONTINUITY OF U.S. POLICY TO EVENTUALLY GIVE FULL RECOGNITION

TO PEKING AS THE ONLY LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA, INCLUDING TAIWAN, DR. KISSINGER MADE A POINT TO STRESS THAT IMPROVED SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONS WILL REMAIN A CORNERSTONE OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, REGARDLESS OF WHO OCCUPIES THE WHITE HOUSE.

15. THIS ASSURANCE HELPS TO STRENGTHEN THE POSITION OF THE PEKING LEADERSHIP AND WEAKEN THE DISSENTING ELEMENTS.

16. THE PRESENT CAMPAIGNS AGAINST CONFUCIAN TENDENCIES AND TO "GO AGAINST THE TIDE" APPEAR ON THE SURFACE TO BE DIRECTED AT THE CENTRE BUT IT COULD CONCEIVABLY BE AIMED AGAINST A GROWING MOVEMENT FAVOURING ACCOMMODATION WITH MOSCOW.

17. IF THE LATTER IS THE CASE, DR. KISSINGER'S VISIT TO PEKING HAS NO

DOUBT REINFORCED THE FEW WHO ARE WITHSTANDING THE TIDE. (END QUOTE)

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